

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0071.01 Megan Waples x4348

HOUSE BILL 20-1031

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Benavidez,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW STATE HOLIDAY IN PLACE
102 OF COLUMBUS DAY.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill establishes Colorado day as a state legal holiday in place of Columbus day. It also makes conforming amendments, including repealing the existing statute concerning Colorado day as a commemorative holiday.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) State holidays are intended to honor prominent figures in
5 United States history and acknowledge other civic events and celebrations
6 and not to honor individual communities or heritages;

7 (b) Colorado day was established by the general assembly to
8 commemorate the anniversary of the 1876 admission of the state of
9 Colorado into the United States of America and should be celebrated as
10 a legal state holiday;

11 (c) Although Columbus is recognized as a voyager who
12 discovered the land that became the United States of America, he did not
13 travel to or enter the territory that became the United States. In 1492,
14 Columbus encountered inhabitants, the indigenous Taíno people, when
15 he landed at the island he named Hispaniola, the current island nations of
16 the Dominican Republic and Haiti, nearly 2,000 miles from the United
17 States.

18 (d) To date, at least eleven states have renamed or removed
19 Columbus day as a state legal holiday, including Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa,
20 Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota,
21 Vermont, and Wisconsin;

22 (e) At least one hundred thirty cities and towns have also renamed
23 the holiday, including the Colorado cities of Durango, Boulder, and
24 Denver; and

25 (f) Replacing Columbus day as a state holiday does not take away
26 from the recognition of the Italian-American community and its
27 contributions to the state.

1 (2) Therefore, in order to preserve the number of state holidays
2 while commemorating Colorado's history, the general assembly hereby
3 replaces Columbus day with Colorado day as a legal state holiday.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-11-101, **amend**
5 (1) as follows:

6 **24-11-101. Legal holidays - effect.** (1) The following days, viz:
7 The first day of January, commonly called New Year's day; the third
8 Monday in January, which shall be observed as the birthday of Dr. Martin
9 Luther King, Jr.; the third Monday in February, commonly called
10 Washington-Lincoln day; the last Monday in May, commonly called
11 Memorial day; the fourth day of July, commonly called Independence
12 day; THE FIRST MONDAY IN AUGUST, WHICH SHALL BE OBSERVED AS
13 COLORADO DAY; the first Monday in September, commonly called Labor
14 day; ~~the second Monday in October, commonly called Columbus day;~~ the
15 eleventh day of November, commonly called Veterans' day; the fourth
16 Thursday in November, commonly called Thanksgiving day; the
17 twenty-fifth day of December, commonly called Christmas day; and any
18 day appointed or recommended by the governor of this state or the
19 president of the United States as a day of fasting or prayer or
20 thanksgiving, are hereby declared to be legal holidays and shall, for all
21 purposes whatsoever, as regards the presenting for payment or acceptance
22 and the protesting and giving notice of the dishonor of bills of exchange,
23 drafts, bank checks, promissory notes, or other negotiable instruments and
24 also for the holding of courts, be treated and considered as is the first day
25 of the week commonly called Sunday.

26 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 24-11-111 as
27 follows:

1 **24-11-111. Colorado Day.** ~~On the first Monday of August in each~~
2 ~~year, commonly called "Colorado Day", appropriate observance may be~~
3 ~~held by the public in tribute to the anniversary of the 1876 admission of~~
4 ~~the state of Colorado into the United States of America.~~

5 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 5-1-301, **amend** (6)
6 as follows:

7 **5-1-301. General definitions.** In addition to definitions appearing
8 in subsequent articles, as used in this code, unless the context otherwise
9 requires:

10 (6) "Business day" means any calendar day except Sunday, New
11 Year's day, the third Monday in January observed as the birthday of Dr.
12 Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington-Lincoln day, Memorial day,
13 Independence day, COLORADO DAY, Labor day, ~~Columbus day~~, Veterans'
14 day, Thanksgiving day, and Christmas day.

15 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-1-102, **amend** (2.5)
16 as follows:

17 **6-1-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 1, unless the context
18 otherwise requires:

19 (2.5) "Business day" means any calendar day except Sunday, New
20 Year's day, the third Monday in January observed as the birthday of Dr.
21 Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington-Lincoln day, Memorial day,
22 Independence day, COLORADO DAY, Labor day, ~~Columbus day~~, Veterans'
23 day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

24 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
25 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.